



USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4)

FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

AFS-4/05/ADC:dmhp

5750

Ser 01

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From: Commanding Officer, USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, D. C. 20390

Subj: USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4) Command History (OPNAV 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAV INST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) USS WHITE PLAINS Command History 1971

1. Enclosure (1) is submitted in accordance with reference (a).

R. H. Barker
R. H. BARKER

Copy to:
COMSERVRON SEVEN

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USS WHITE PLAINS

(AFS-4)

COMMAND HISTORY

1971

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ENCLOSURE (1)

1. CHRONOLOGY
2. NARRATIVE
3. LESSONS LEARNED
4. C.O. BIOGRAPHY
5. ROSTER OF PERSONNEL
6. FAMILYGRAMS

CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR EVENT 1971

Jan 1-20 Continuation of leave and upkeep after Third WESTPAC Deployment
21-31 Upkeep Alameda

Feb 1-21 Upkeep Alameda
22-28 Underway for Southern California for Major Fleet Exercise "ADMIXTURE"

Mar 1-2 "ADMIXTURE"
2-4 Enroute Alameda
5-15 Upkeep Alameda
16-17 Administrative Inspection
18-31 Upkeep/Pre-Overhaul Inspection

Apr 1-15 Pre-Overhaul Alameda
16-30 Major Overhaul Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, San Francisco, Ca.

May 1-31 Overhaul Hunters Point Naval Shipyard

Jun 1-30 Overhaul Hunters Point Naval Shipyard

Jul 1-8 Overhaul Hunters Point Naval Shipyard
Jul 9 Sea Trials NOCAL OP Area
Jul 10-25 Post Overhaul Hunters Point Naval Shipyard
Jul 28 Change of Command, Farallon Islands
Jul 26-30 Type Training NOCAL OP Area
31 In Port Alameda

Aug 1 In Port Alameda
2-8 Type Training San Diego
9-26 Refresher Training San Diego
26-30 Enroute Acapulco, Mexico
31 In Port Acapulco, Mexico

Sep 1-5 In Port Acapulco, Mexico
6-10 Enroute Alameda

Sep 10-13 In Port Alameda

13-24 East PAC services In Port and Underway with USS MOUNT HOOD (AE-29)

25-30 In Port Alameda

Oct 1-12 In Port Alameda

12-15 East PAC services for USS MOUNT HOOD (AE-29)

16-20 In Port Alameda

21-31 Pre-Deployment Load Out NSC Oakland

Nov 1-5 NSC Oakland

5 Dependents Cruise

6-20 Pre-Deployment Load Out Alameda Reefer pier

20-31 Enroute Subic Bay

Dec 1 Inchop Seventh Fleet

1-6 Enroute Subic Bay

6-8 Load Subic Bay

8-16 First Line Swing

16-17 Load Subic Bay

18-31 Second Line Swing

NARRATIVE

The new year 1971 saw the USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS 4) resting at NAS Alameda after a long and eventful Western Pacific cruise. Having returned just prior to Christmas, WHITE PLAINS personnel were taking advantage of their thirty day standdown period and spending a lot of time at home. Following this was a month long upkeep period designed to bring the ship up to her usual maintenance and operational readiness levels. On the 22nd of February, WHITE PLAINS was again underway, only this time to the friendly waters of Southern California, to participate in the major First Fleet Exercise "ADMIXTURE". Among the highlights of this fleet exercise was the participation of a supply ship and three destroyer escorts of the Royal Canadian Navy. "ADMIXTURE" once again showed the readiness of the Navy in all aspects as exercises in ASW, carrier, amphibious, and replenishment operations proved successful. It should be noted that WHITE PLAINS served as flagship for COMMANDER SERVICE SQUADRON SEVEN during this exercise. After this profitable venture WHITE PLAINS returned to her homeport of Alameda on the fourth day of March, where she prepared for an administrative inspection given by the staff of Service Squadron SEVEN on the sixteenth and seventeenth.

The remaining portion of March was spent at Alameda preparing for the up-coming shipyard overhaul period at Hunters Point. Work requests and job orders became the order of the day as last minute plans were being made, changed and rechanged. Although the actual yard period was not due to begin until April 15, representatives from the various shops of the shipyard were seen daily aboard WHITE PLAINS during the last two weeks of March and the first two weeks of April. Finally, WHITE PLAINS steamed across the Bay to Hunters Point and began her first cycle overhaul on April 15. Only three months of overhaul were scheduled so much work had to take place everyday. As would be expected, engineering had the most amount of work to be done; however, habitability received more than its share of attention. Among the biggest jobs taken on by the shipyard was the complete revamp of the crew's mess decks; new round tables, curtains, a new deck, lighting, silverware, cups, and trays were made and generally established the mess decks as an attractive place to dine. Supply Department's most important job was the replacement of their UNIVAC 1004 computer with an AN-UYK-1500 computer. This change would provide more than eight times the memory space in the computer and also cross from a card system to a tape system. Operations had most of its electronic and communications equipment overhauled, had a UNK-14 set-up established in CIC and added six KY-8 sets to her communications gear. All through this demanding period, there was tremendous changeover in personnel, making it difficult for the ship to stay on top of her jobs. With the assistance of the yard and the hard work of her own personnel, the overhaul proceeded on schedule and WHITE PLAINS was ready for sea trials on 9 July. After a successful completion of sea trials and the remaining two weeks of the overhaul, WHITE PLAINS was pronounced fit for sea and scheduled for getting underway on July 26. Two days after getting underway, July 28, WHITE PLAINS anchored off the Farallon Islands, just outside the Golden Gate, for her change of command. Captain Raymond H. BARKER, USN, relieved Captain Robert H. GORMLEY, USN, and became the

third commanding officer of the USS WHITE PLAINS. Captain GORMLEY flew off the ship that afternoon and was on his way to Norfolk, Virginia, where he would take command of the attack carrier USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CVA-67). After this informally held event, the ship resumed its type training and preparations for refresher training with exercises in damage control, general quarters and ship handling. After spending a weekend in Alameda, AFS-4 again got underway, this time for San Diego to sustain her tremendous record of achievement in refresher training. From the 9th to the 26th of August, WHITE PLAINS almost continuously drilled through a strenuous training period and emerged successful after passing the final battle problem on August 26. WHITE PLAINS left San Diego immediately after the completion of the final battle problem for a rest and recreation stop in Acapulco, Mexico, and arrived in that famous Mexican resort on August 30 for a six day visit. During this enjoyable stay, the ship received several notable dignitaries aboard, including, the mayor and ranking military officers. On the sixth of September, WHITE PLAINS departed sunny Acapulco for home after an absence of six weeks.

After a brief rest in Alameda, WHITE PLAINS was again underway, this time giving UNREP services to one of the newest ships in the fleet, USS MOUNT HOOD (AE-29). A portion of this time with the MOUNT HOOD was at Pier Two, Alameda, and the remaining time was at sea in the local Northern California area. The final week of September was spent at upkeep in Alameda. October 12 to 15 was utilized in local operating areas with the MOUNT HOOD once again, priming her for her upcoming refresher training period in San Diego.

From 21 October to 5 November WHITE PLAINS was moored at Naval Supply Center, Oakland, loading out in preparation for the 20 November departure date for WESTPAC. Pallets and pallets of parts, consumables and provisions were taken aboard for further use by the Seventh Fleet. November 5 was spent in and around San Francisco Bay for the enjoyment and edification of WHITE PLAINS dependents on the annual "Dependents Day Cruise." In many cases, this was the first time that our dependents had an opportunity to be aboard a Navy ship underway, to observe the many customs and traditions honored, and to see exactly what their husbands, sons, and friends actually did on the ship. In any event, a good time was had by all and when the ship moored at the Alameda Reefer Pier that afternoon, most of the dependents had a deeper appreciation for WHITE PLAINS and her mission.

On 20 November, the ship departed San Francisco enroute for Subic Bay. The long transit ended on 6 December after many hours of intensive training and drills in preparation for the next six month stint with the Seventh Fleet. Besides loading in the Philippines, the ship embarked Detachment 106 of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron THREE and two invaluable UH-46 aircraft. The pilots and crew members of the helo detachment would prove

to be the right arm of WHITE PLAINS' replenishment team providing VERTREP and transportation services throughout the deployment. Two days after arriving in the Philippines, WHITE PLAINS was on her way to the Gulf of Tonkin and her first line swing of the deployment. The crew did not have to wait long for action. A few hours after leaving Subic, WHITE PLAINS met the USS TRIPOLI (LPH-10) and the amphibious Ready Group accompanying her, along with three destroyers and replenished them in several hours. After this strong beginning, AFS-4 serviced Yankee Station, Da Nang, Cam Ranh Bay and Vung Tau before returning to Subic. After another short load out period, WHITE PLAINS steamed to the Indian Ocean to replenish USS ENTERPRISE (CVAN-65) and her escorts. The ship was not only carrying supplies this time; also aboard were passengers for all the ships and much appreciated Christmas mail. In addition, this marked the first time this class ship had traveled to the Indian Ocean. At any rate "Plainsmen" were hard at work over the Christmas Holidays. Upon completion of the ENTERPRISE group, WHITE PLAINS made a brief two day stop in Singapore on 30 and 31 December before heading for Vietnamese waters.

So, 1971 ended for WHITE PLAINS underway, significant in that most of the year was spent in that manner. The year also ended with AFS-4 doing what she does best, keeping our combatant units replenished and ready for action.

LESSONS LEARNED

Over the past year, probably the two important points to remember concerning WHITE PLAINS were the values of training and versatility. After returning from the cruise in December 1970, many new crew members joined the ship, both from the officer and enlisted ranks. This combined limited underway time during the first six months of the year left the crew on a comparatively low state of readiness, due mostly to the demanding overhaul period. When type training and refresher training periods started, much work needed to be done in this area. After six weeks in this area, the training had been completed and the crew was well rounded, ready in nearly all respects for her upcoming cruise. After the cruise had begun, the ship quickly saw the value of versatility and met the challenge just as quickly. WHITE PLAINS acted as an AFS and passenger ship all within the first two months of deployment by reacting in a straightforward positive manner to current situations.

CAPTAIN RAYMOND H. BARKER, USN

Captain BARKER enlisted in the Navy in 1945 under the Naval Aviation College program as an Apprentice Seaman, and served at the University of California, Berkeley, the Naval Air Station, Seattle, and at Oregon State University until ordered to flight training in 1948. He was appointed an Aviation Midshipman in May 1948, and was designated a Naval Aviator in December 1949.

Captain BARKER's first duty assignment was with VA-115 at North Island flying A-1 "Skyraiders", as an Aviation Midshipman until commissioned an Ensign in May 1950. Other assignments include: personnel officer, NAAS Saufley Field, Ass't Combat Information Officer, USS LEYTE (CVS-32); Aviation Safety Officer, ASW Officer, Training Officer, Operations Officer, VS-31; US NATOPS Decks, Navy Tactical Doctrine Development and Production Activity, Washington, D. C.; Operations Officer, Executive Officer and Commanding Officer VS-37; Commander, ASW Air Group 57, and the Carrier Strike Warfare Desk in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

Captain BARKER attended the General Line School at the U. S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey; the Combat Information Officer's School at Glenview, the Aviation Safety Officer's School at the University of Southern California and the Air War College.

During his Naval career, Captain BARKER received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with seven gold stars, Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon while serving with VA-115 aboard the USS PHILIPPINE SEA (CVA-47) during 1950-1952 and the Bronze Star for duty as Commander ASW Air Group 57.

12

USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 96601

14 March 1969

WELCOME ABOARD!

It is indeed a pleasure for me as Commanding Officer of WHITE PLAINS to welcome the President and the members of the Board of Inspection and Survey aboard, along with others who have decided interests in the Final Contract Trials.

For the convenience of the members of the board and observers, this folder sets forth berthing, messing and other arrangements.


T. B. BRENNER

UNITED STATES SHIP WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4)

The Combat Stores Ship, WHITE PLAINS is the fourth ship of the MARS Class and the second ship to be commissioned bearing the name. The first WHITE PLAINS was an escort aircraft carrier used extensively during WW II. Both ships are named after the Battle of White Plains, New York in which the Colonial forces under General George Washington defeated a British force under General Howe.

The WHITE PLAINS was built by NASSCO, San Diego, California. Her keel was laid 2 October 1965 and she was launched 26 July 1966 with Mrs. "Bob" WILSON, wife of the San Diego congressman, as her sponsor. Although originally scheduled for commissioning in early 1968, major changes in her winches and the installation of an Automated Propulsion System (APS), along with construction problems led to her eventual Commissioning on 23 November 1969 at the U. S. NAVAL SHIPYARD, Long Beach, California. Since Commissioning and except for a period of outfitting, her main efforts have been in training her crew and receiving her FILL (Fleet Issue Load List) at Naval Supply Center, Oakland, during January of this year. This was followed by a period of Independent Ships Exercises and training in RAS (Replenishment at Sea).

WHITE PLAINS is one of over 150 ships and units commanded by REAR ADMIRAL Walter V. COMBS, Commander Service Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet. Within SERVPAC, there is Service Group ONE (Comprised of Service Squadrons ONE at San Diego and Long Beach and SEVEN in San Francisco), Service Squadrons FIVE in Hawaii, and Service Group THREE/Service Squadron THREE at Yokosuka and Sosebo, Japan. WHITE PLAINS is assigned to Service Group ONE under Captain A. F. BETZEL, USN and Service Squadron SEVEN under Captain J. S. OLLER, Jr. Captain T. B. BRENNER is the WHITE PLAINS first Commanding Officer.

The Ship's organization is similar to that of most Service Force Ships, consisting of Operations, Deck, Engineering, Supply, Medical, Navigation and an Executive Division. The ship also will have an Air Department aboard during her deployment to WESTPAC.

| NAME | RANK | ABANDON SHIP | ORGANIZATION | BERTHING | MEAL SETTING |
|------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|
| F. J. PETERSON | CAPT | 1 | INSURV | CO, INPORT | CO |
| B. A. LIGNHARD | CAPT | 2 | PMS - 390 | XO/SR | CO |
| R. E. WURLITZER | CAPT | 1 | SERV PAC | 02-112-3-L | CO |
| W. T. EGAN | CIV | 1 | NASSCO | 03-107-0-L | CO |
| R. N. PEARCE | CDR | 1 | INSURV | 02-133-1-L | 2 |
| I. W. BLAIR | CDR | 1 | NAVSHIPS | SICK BAY | 2 |
| G. P. CASE | CDR | 1 | PMS - 383 | 03-116-0-L | 2 |
| W. K. DAYBERT | LCDR | 1 | SERVGRU ONE | 02-129-0-L | 2 |
| G. T. SIMPSON | LCDR | 1 | SUPSHIPS | SICK BAY | 2 |
| T. H. LAIRD | LCDR | 1 | PMS - 390 | SICK BAY | 2 |
| H. J. TIEDEMANN | LCDR | 1 | PMS -383 | SICK BAY | 2 |
| W. B. STOCKING | LCDR | 1 | INSURV | 03-134-1-L | 2 |
| R. W. CORRIGAN | LCDR | 1 | INSURV | 02-113-1-L | 2 |
| J. D. DESPOSITO | LCDR | 1 | INSURV | 02-129-0-L | 2 |
| C. A. CARTER | LCDR | 1 | INSURV | 02-113-1-L | 2 |
| J. M. SHIELDS | LCDR | 1 | NSC, SD | 02-129-1-L | 2 |
| F. W. MARSH | LCDR | 2 | NSC, SD | 02-107-3-L | 2 |
| H. P. DURGIN | LT | 2 | INSURV | 03-129-2-L | 1 |
| J. M. KNIGHT | LT | 2 | INSURV | 03-125-2-L | 1 |
| E. W. MORRIS | LT | 2 | INSURV | 03-134-1-L | 1 |
| W. W. WEAVER | LT | 2 | INSURV | 03-107-4-L | 1 |
| L. G. MCKINNON | LT | 2 | INSURV | 02-124-1-L | 1 |
| H. D. CLARK | CWO 4 | 2 | SERVGRU ONE | CPO - 28 | CPO 1 |
| GMGC G. ROBINSON | | 2 | SERVGRU ONE | CPO - 1 | CPO 1 |
| B. E. GALLAWAY | CIV | 2 | NAVSHIPS | CPO - 5 | CPO 2 |
| E. A. MCCORMACK | CIV | 2 | SUPSHIPS | CPO - 11 | CPO 2 |
| BUSHMAN | CIV | 2 | PMS - 90 | CPO - 21 | CPO 2 |
| R. BUIE | CIV | 2 | PMS - 383 | CPO - 23 | CPO 2 |
| A. B. MCDONALD | CIV | 2 | PMS - 383 | CPO - 26 | CPO 2 |
| BLACK | CIV | 2 | NASSCO | CREW 13 | CREW |
| J. DAVIS | CIV | 3 | NASSCO | CREW 14 | CREW |
| L. RAPP | CIV | 3 | B & W | CREW 15 | CREW |
| M. BICK | CIV | 3 | B & W | CREW 132 | CREW |
| D. FENDER | CIV | 3 | G. E. | CREW 133 | CREW |
| L. WARD | CIV | 3 | BAILEY | CREW 135 | CREW |
| B. CUSHARD | CIV | 3 | WEST. GEAR | CREW 66 | CREW |
| W. FUTAR | CIV | 4 | WEST. GEAR | CREW 93 | CREW |
| J. TAYLOR | CIV | 4 | DELAVAL | CREW 69 | CREW |
| L. BENNETT | CIV | 4 | DELAVAL | CREW 75 | CREW |
| A. HARMON | CIV | 4 | NSMSES | CREW 78 | CREW |
| J. ECK | CIV | 4 | NSMSES | CREW 72 | CREW |
| R. R. TRENT | CIV | 4 | NAVSEC PHIL | CREW 30 | CREW |
| | CIV | | NAVSEC SD | CREW 57 | CREW |
| | | | | CREW 84 | CREW |
| | | | | CREW 99 | CREW |

SHIP'S OFFICERS

| OFFICER | BILLET | BERTHED | TOTAL EXTENSION | MEAL SETTING |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| CDR J. D. KOHL | SUPPLY OFFICER | 03-107-6-L | 291 | 2 |
| LCDR. R. L. HILL | OPERATION OFFICER | 03-120-2-L | 195 | 1 |
| LCDR. J. W. WATTS | ENGINEERING OFFICER | 03-112-8-L | 292 | 2 |
| LCDR. D. S. HUNSICKER | CHAPLAIN | 03-107-4-L | 393 | 2 |
| LT. S. C. SALISBURY | 1st LIEUTENANT | 02-107-1-L | 778 | 2 |
| LT. T. R. McKENNA | CARGO CONTROL | 02-129-1-L | 981 | 2 |
| LT. L. S. WOLDENBERG | MEDICAL OFFICER | 02-107-7-L | 777 | 2 |
| LT. B. A. HOPKINS | CONTROL OFFICER | 02-133-1-L | 774 | 2 |
| LTJG. D. J. SMITH | COMMUNICATIONS | 02-124-1-L | 881 | 1 |
| LTJG. J. F. DRUMMER | NAVIGATOR | 03-128-1-L | 596 | 1 |
| LTJG. D. V. CURTIS | CIC OFFICER | 03-107-0-L | 889 | 1 |
| LTJG. W. D. EMERSON | GUNNERY OFFICER | 02-129-0-L | 882 | 1 |
| LTJG. J. B. HAMMOND | DAMAGE CONTROL | 03-132-0-L | 399 | 1 |
| LTJG. C. P. RODDY | Electrical Officer | 03-129-2-L | 697 | 1 |
| LTJG. G. E. THOMAS | ASS'T CARGO CONTROL | 03-107-2-L | 989 | 1 |
| LTJG. E. H. AIKEN | EMO | 03-136-0-L | 999 | 1 |
| LTJG. C. TYLER | ASS'T 1st LIEUTENANT | 03-136-0-L | 999 | 1 |
| LTJG. C. H. REA | SHIP SUPPLY OFFICER | 02-133-0-L | 982 | 1 |
| ENS. T. C. WAGGONER | 2nd DIVISION | 03-132-0-L | 399 | 1 |
| ENS. M. B. ELDER | 1st DIVISION | 03-125-2-L | 993 | 1 |
| CWO S. E. WATSON | BOATSWAIN | 02-107-2-L | 974 | 1 |
| CWO R. L. BURBRIDGE | ASS'T CONTROL OFFICER | 03-133-2-L | 997 | 1 |
| WO G. W. JONES | M. P. A. | 03-133-2-L | 997 | 1 |
| LTJG. A. G. TAYLOR | FOOD SERVICES | 03-107-2-L | 989 | 1 |

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>RANK</u> | <u>ABANDON SHIP</u> | <u>ORGANIZATION</u> | <u>BERTHING</u> | <u>MEAL SETTING</u> |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
|-------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|

| | |
|----------|------|
| CREW 117 | CREW |
| CREW 138 | CREW |
| CREW 156 | CREW |
| CREW 168 | CREW |
| CREW 159 | CREW |
| CREW 144 | CREW |
| CREW 162 | CREW |
| CREW 174 | CREW |
| CREW 147 | CREW |

ABANON SHIP ASSIGNMENTS

| <u>Station</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Senior Man</u> | <u>Roster Submitted to:</u> |
|----------------|---|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 #22 | Main deck Port Side | CAPT PETERSON | CDR KOHL on STBD QRDK |
| 2 #24 | Main deck Port Side | CAPT LIENHARD | CDR KOHL on STBD QRDK |
| 3 #31 | Main deck STBD Side Between UNREP # 7,9 | LTJG DRUMMER | LCDR OVERMAN Port QRDK |
| 4 #32 | Main deck Port Side Between UNREP # 8,10 | LT WOLDENBERG | LCDR WATTS Port Side Main dk aft |

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Meals* as indicated by the agenda, will be served during the following hours, (Wardroom).

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|----|
| Breakfast | 0600 to 0745 | |
| ** Lunch | 1100 to 1200 | #1 |
| | 1200 to 1300 | #2 |
| ** Supper | 1700 to | #1 |
| | 1745 to | #2 |

NIGHT RATIONS 2000 to 0030

Each guest will receive a setting assignment. Changes may be made in these arrangements according to the agenda. These changes will be posted outside of the Wardroom.

*Reimbursements for meals may be made to LT HOPKINS, of the Ship's Company, at any time while aboard. Guests subsisting out of the General Mess will pay by the meal. General Messing hours are posted.

2. Emergencies - In the case that the ship must go to General Quarters, Abandon Ship or Fire Stations each visitor will be assigned a specific place.

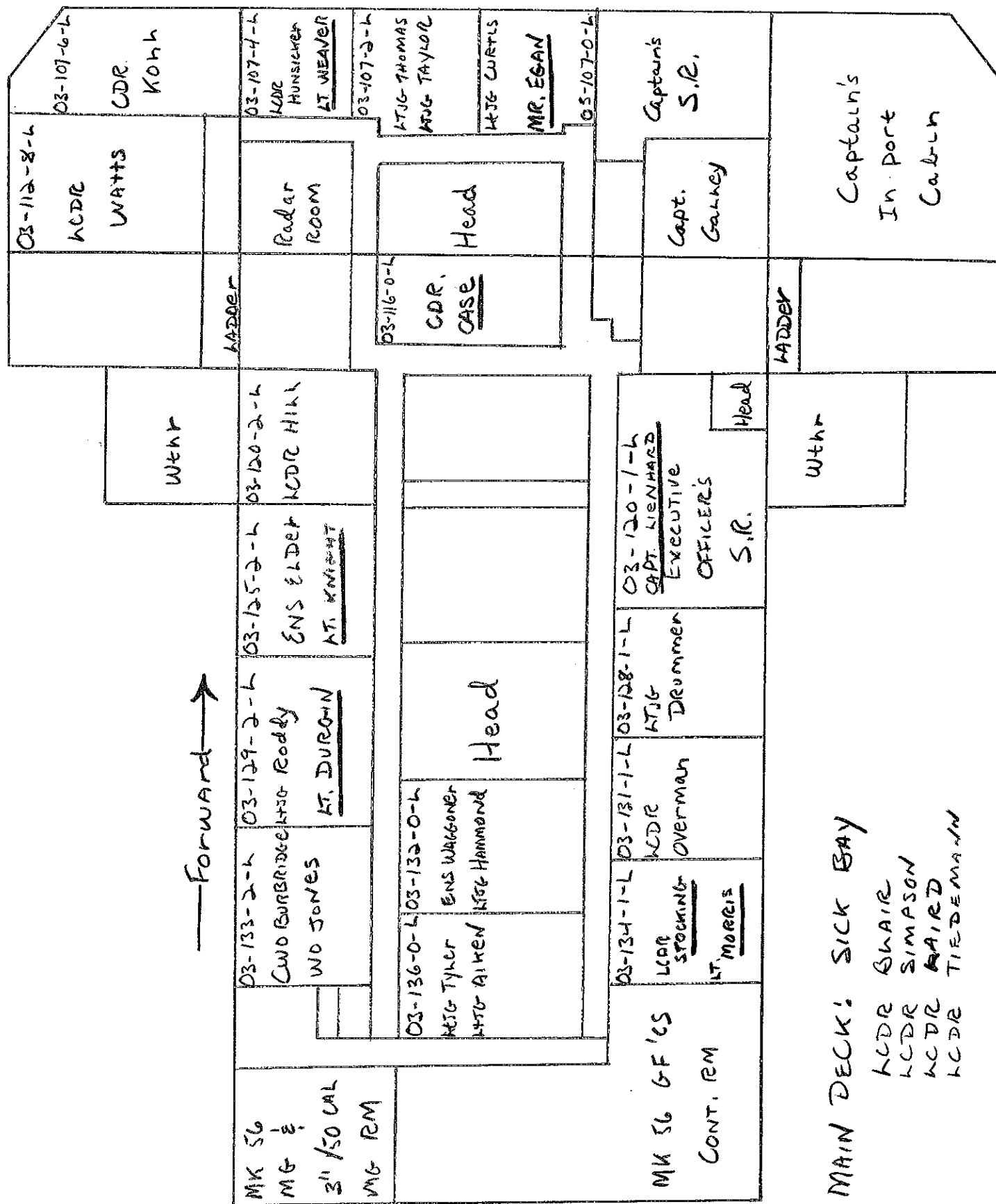
3. Ship's Store - Located on the 01 Level on the Port Side will be open to all Military Personnel and guests.

4. Barbor Shop - Located on the 01 Level on the Starboard Side. An Appointment List is posted on the door and embarked guests may use this facility as opportunities permit. No Charge

5. Laundry - Regular Officer Laundry is processed on Monday and Thursday however, special consideration will be given on a daily basis to guests especially with regard to particularly soiled overalls and inspecting clothes. Laundry bags and laundry lists will be made available for each guest on request. Personnel living in Officer's Country may simply leave their laundry bag with the laundry list outside their stateroom. Guests living in the CPO Quarters should contact the CPO Mess Caterer. Guests located in Crew's Berthing Spaces should contact SH1 BENJAMIN at EXT. 447 for laundry service.

** Please eat as quickly as possible so that the agenda may be followed as closely as possible.

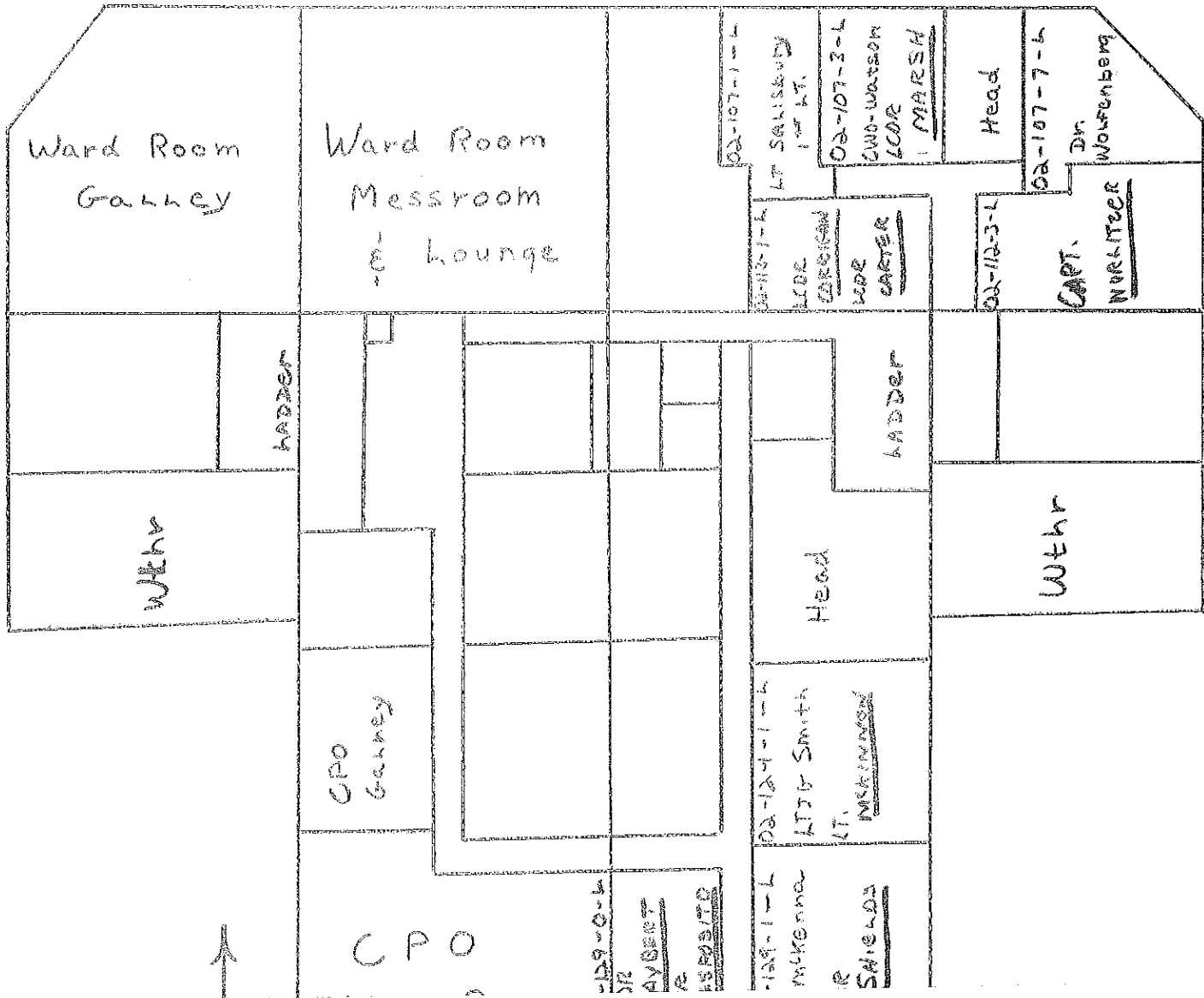
Berthing Arrangement 03 Level



MAIN DECK: SICK BAY

LCDR BLAIR
 LCDR SIMPSON
 LCDR BAIRD
 LCDR TIEDERMAN

Berthing Arrangement 02 Level



MASTER COPY

WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4) COMMISSIONING CEREMONY PLAN



23 NOVEMBER 1968

MASTER COPY

WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4) COMMISSIONING CEREMONY PLAN

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- 0900 - BAND AND HONOR GUARD ASSEMBLES ON PIER
- 0900 - MEMBERS OF THE CREW, NOT ASSIGNED SPECIAL DETAILS ABOARD SHIP, PARADED AT QUARTERS ON PIER
- 0915 - BAND PLAYS APPROPRIATE MUSICAL SELECTIONS AND HONORS,
- 0940 - LADIES OF OFFICIAL PARTY BEGIN ARRIVING FOR CEREMONY. ON ARRIVAL ESCORTED TO RESERVED SEATS ON PIER BY ESCORT OFFICERS.
- - CONGRESSMAN BOB WILSON
- 0950 - RADM KUEHL (COMMANDER NSC LBEACH)
- 0955 - RADM VASEY (COMCRUDESFLT SEVEN)
- 1000 - RADM COMBS (COMSERVPAC)
- 1005 - RADM BIRD (COMNAVBASE LOSA)
- 1005 - OFFICIAL PARTY ARRIVES
- BUGLER SOUNDS ATTENTION WHEN VEHICLES WITH SENIOR OFFICERS OF OFFICIAL PARTY ARRIVE AT THE CEREMONY AREA
- PX0 - "COMMISSIONING DETAIL, ATTENTION"
- "COMMISSIONING DETAIL, LEFT FACE"
- PX0 - ANNOUNCES, "GUESTS, PLEASE RISE WHILE HONORS ARE RENDERED TO COMMANDER NAVAL BASE LOS ANGELES"
- GUARD AND BAND RENDER HONORS TO ADM BIRD WHO IS THEN INVITED TO INSPECT GUARD (RUFFLES AND FLOURISHES; ADMIRALS MARCH)
- PCO - MEETS PARTY ON ARRIVAL AND ACCOMPANIES TO SPEAKERS PLATFORM.
- PX0 - (ON READINESS OF OFFICIAL PARTY ON PODIUM)
"BUGLER, SOUND ATTENTION"
- PCO - (SALUTES) "ADM BIRD, WE ARE READY TO PROCEED WITH THE COMMISSIONING CEREMONY"
- RADM BIRD - "VERY WELL"
- PCO - "CHAPLAIN HUNSICKER OF THE WHITE PLAINS WILL OFFER THE INVOCATION"
- "MILITARY GUESTS WILL REMAIN COVERED"

CHAPLAIN - DELIVERS INVOCATION

PXO - "GUESTS, PLEASE BE SEATED"
"COMMISSIONING DETAIL, PARADE REST"

PCO - "IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE THE GUESTS WHO ARE
WITH ME ON THE PLATFORM" (INTRODUCE NOTABLE VIPS)

PCO - INTRODUCES MR. A. E. LARKIN, PRESIDENT, GENERAL FOODS
CORPORATION.

MR. LARKIN - DELIVERS COMMISSIONING ADDRESS.

RADM BIRD - "I WILL NOW READ THE DIRECTIVE TO COMMISSION THE
UNITED STATES SHIP WHITE-PLAINS". (READS DIRECTIVE).
"CAPTAIN BRENNER, PLACE WHITE PLAINS IN COMMISSION"

PCO - SALUTES. "AYE, AYE SIR. COMMANDER COWAN, HOIST THE
COLORS AND COMMISSION PENNANT"

PXO - SALUTES. "AYE, AYE SIR"
"BUGLER SOUND ATTENTION" (BUGLER SOUNDS ATTENTION).
"WHITE PLAINS COMMISSIONING DETAIL, ABOUT FACE" "GUESTS
PLEASE RISE AND FACE AFT"
"BAND MASTER SOUND OFF"
HONOR GUARD PRESENTS ARMS, OFFICERS SALUTE, MEN IN
RANKS AT ATTENTION, NOT SALUTING, DESIGNATED MEN WILL
BE STATIONED AT JACKSTAFF, FLAGSTAFF, AND MAIN TRUCK
HALLIARDS. AT FIRST NOTE OF NATIONAL ANTHEM,
NATIONAL ENSIGN, JACK, AND COMMISSION PENNANT ARE
HOISTED SMARTLY TOGETHER.

PXO - (ON LAST NOTE OF NATIONAL ANTHEM) BUGLER SOUNDS CARRY-ON;
SALUTES ARE DROPPED SHARPLY AND HONOR GUARD ORDERS ARMS.
"GUESTS, PLEASE BE SEATED"
"SHIP'S COMPANY, ABOUT FACE, PARADE REST"

RADM BIRD - "IT IS NOW MY PLEASURE TO CALL UPON CAPTAIN THOMAS B.
BRENNER, U. S. NAVY, WHO WILL TAKE COMMAND OF WHITE
PLAINS, CAPTAIN BRENNER"

CO - "I SHALL NOW READ MY ORDERS" (READS ORDERS).
"ADMIRAL BIRD, THE UNITED STATES SHIP, WHITE PLAINS IS
IN COMMISSION AND I ASSUME COMMAND."

RADM BIRD - "VERY WELL"

CO - "COMMANDER COWAN, SET THE WATCH AND MAN THE SHIP"

XO - SALUTES.
"AYE, AYE SIR"
(TO THE NAVIGATOR) "MR. DRUMMER, POST THE FIRST WATCH AS THE OFFICER OF THE DECK" (HANDS THE LONG GLASS TO THE NAVIGATOR) WHO PROCEEDS TO THE QUARTERDECK.

OOD - (SALUTES).
"AYE, AYE SIR"

XO - "BOATSWAIN'S MATE, PIPE THE WATCH ON DECK"

BOS'N MATE - AT IMC PIPES "ALL HANDS" AND PASSES WORD
"SET THE WATCH, ON DECK, FIRST SECTION"
WATCH PROCEEDS SMARTLY TO FORWARD AND AFTER BROW AS PREVIOUSLY DESIGNATED.

XO - (AFTER THE WATCH IS SET)
"SHIP'S COMPANY, MAN THE SHIP"

BAND PLAYS APPROPRIATE MUSIC "ANCHORS AWEIGH", AND
"LOOK ME OVER"

IN PREARRANGED ORDER, CREW MARCHES OFF PIER IN TWO SINGLE FILES AND BOARDS BY BOTH FORWARD AND AFTER BROWS. EACH MAN SALUTES ON BOARDING AND MOVES OFF IN PREARRANGED ORDER TO MAN STARBOARD RAIL ON MAIN DECK, BOW TO STERN. MEN ARE AT RAIL; OFFICERS ARE ONE PACE INBOARD OF THEIR DIVISIONS. ON REACHING POSITIONS, DIVISIONS ARE PLACED AT PARADE REST. DURING BOARDING OF CREW, EQUIPMENT WILL BE TURNED ON TO SYMBOLIZE SHIP COMING TO LIFE, E.G. RADAR ANTENNAE ROTATED, GUNS RAISED TO DRESS POSITION.

XO - (WHEN LAST MAN IS ABOARD AND RAIL IS MANNED).
"CAPTAIN, THE WATCH IS SET AND THE UNITED STATES SHIP, WHITE PLAINS IS MANNED SIR" SALUTE.

CO - "VERY WELL" (FACES SENIOR OFFICER PRESENT)
"ADMIRAL BIRD, I REQUEST PERMISSION TO BREAK YOUR FLAG"

RADM BIRD - "PERMISSION GRANTED"

CO - "COMMANDER COWAN, BREAK THE FLAG OF COMMANDER NAVAL BASE, LOS ANGELES"

XO - SALUTES
 "AYE, AYE SIR", "BUGLER, SOUND ATTENTION"
 "GUESTS, PLEASE RISE"
 "BREAK FLAG OF COMMANDER NAVAL BASE, LOS ANGELES"
 "SOUND OFF"
 (FLAG IS BROKEN FROM THE STARBOARD YARDARM AS BAND PLAYS
 "RUFFLES AND FLOURISHES" AND THE "ADMIRALS MARCH";
 THE COMMISSIONING PENNANT IS STRUCK SIMULTANEOUSLY.
 OFFICERS SALUTE, ENLISTED MEN IN RANKS REMAIN AT
 ATTENTION. HONOR GUARD PRESENTS ARMS ON FIRST NOTE
 OF MUSIC).

XO - (ON TERMINATION OF MUSIC, BUGLER SOUNDS CARRY-ON;
 SALUTES ARE SHARPLY DROPPED, CREW TO PARADE REST
 AT SOUND OF CARRY-ON, AND ARMS ORDERED.
 "GUESTS, PLEASE BE SEATED"
 "CAPTAIN, ADMIRAL BIRD'S, FLAG HAS BEEN BROKEN"

CO - "VERY WELL"

CO - ADDRESS TO THE CREW AND GUESTS.

CO - INTRODUCES MRS. BOB WILSON.

MRS WILSON - BRIEF REMARKS BY SHIP'S SPONSOR, MRS. BOB WILSON.

CO - INTRODUCES MR. RICHARD HENDEY, MAYOR OF THE CITY
 OF WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK.

MAYOR HENDEY-BRIEF REMARKS BY MAYOR HENDEY.

CO - "WILL THE GUESTS PLEASE RISE"

CO - "CHAPLAIN HUNSICKER WILL NOW OFFER THE BENEDICTION"

CHAPLAIN - DELIVERS BENEDICTION. UPON COMPLETION OF BENEDICTION
 THE BAND PLAYS TWO STANZAS OF THE "NAVY HYMN".

XO - "GUESTS, PLEASE BE SEATED"

CO - "COMMANDER COWAN, PLEASE HAVE THE OFFICIAL PARTY
 ESCORTED ABOARD"

XO - (SALUTES),
 "AYE, AYE SIR", GUESTS, PLEASE RISE AND STAND AS THE
 OFFICIAL PARTY DEPARTS"
 "BUGLER, SOUND ATTENTION"

XO

- CO WILL TEND SIDE TO GREET FLAG OFFICERS. SIDE HONORS WILL BE RENDERED FLAG OFFICERS, CIVILIAN OFFICIALS, AND CAPTAINS. FLAG OFFICERS AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS WILL BE ESCORTED TO THE CO'S CABIN. OTHER GUESTS WILL BE ESCORTED TO WARDROOM OR TO THE FLIGHT DECK.

XO

- (WHEN PLATFORM PARTY CLEAR OF THE QUARTERDECK), "LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE COMMISSIONING CEREMONY IS CONCLUDED. THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE UNITED STATES SHIP, WHITE PLAINS WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU ABOARD FOR A TOUR OF THE NEWEST AND FINEST SHIP IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY. TO FACILITATE YOUR BOARDING, WE SUGGEST THAT GUESTS OF THE WARDROOM USE THE FORWARD BROW AND GUESTS OF THE CREW USE THE AFTER BROW. YOUR SPONSORS WILL BE ON HAND TO MEET YOU ON THE FLIGHT DECK, AND ESCORTS WILL BE PROVIDED TO GUIDE ALL GUESTS ON A BRIEF TOUR OF THE SHIP. THE CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE HELICOPTER HANGAR SHORTLY."

- "SHIP'S COMPANY DISMISSED."

MEN FORWARD OF THE QUARTERDECK PROCEED TO THE FLIGHT DECK BY PORT SIDE. OFFICERS AND ESCORTS ASSEMBLE AT QUARTERDECK CLEAR OF GUARD AND SIDEBOYS. MEMBERS OF THE CREW AND TOUR GUIDES ASSEMBLE ON THE FANTAIL CLEAR OF THE BROW. MARINE GUARD MAY MARCH OFF.

BAND TO PLAY APPROPRIATE MUSIC ON CONCLUSION OF SIDE HONORS UNTIL 1100 AND THEN DEPART.

CO CUTS COMMISSIONING CAKE IN HELO HANGAR AND MAKES BRIEF REMARKS.

SENIOR OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS OF PLATFORM PARTY DEPART. OOD WILL HAVE CARS STANDING BY FORWARD BROW. CO WILL TEND SIDE AND SIDE HONORS WILL BE RENDERED DEPARTING OFFICERS OF PLATFORM PARTY. ON DEPARTURE OF RADM BIRD, SOUND ATTENTION TO THE STARBOARD; PIPE THE SIDE; LOWER HIS FLAG ON DEPARTURE FROM QUARTERDECK AND HOIST COMMISSION PENNANT; PIPE CAR AWAY FROM SIDE; SOUND CARRY-ON.

(OR ASAP THEREAFTER) CO DEPARTS FOR C.O.M. SIDE HONORS WILL CONTINUE FOR DEPARTING SENIOR OFFICERS WITH XO TENDING SIDE.

- 1130 - RECEPTION AT C.O.M. FOR OFFICIAL GUESTS. RECEIVING LINE TO BE FORMED ON ARRIVAL OF OFFICIAL PARTY.
- 1300 - RECEPTION AT C.O.M. TO TERMINATE.
- 1400 - ALL VISITORS ARE REQUESTED TO LEAVE THE SHIP.
- 1600 - ALL GUESTS ARE REQUESTED TO LEAVE THE SHIP.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
Prospective Commanding Officer
WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4)
Supervisor of Shipbuilding (C&R), USN
Naval Station, Box 119
San Diego, California 92136

AFS-4/00/TBB:cs
1000

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Dear

I would like to congratulate you on your orders to the USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4)! I take this opportunity to welcome you to our crew which is now assembling in San Diego, and to pass along some information which may be of assistance in your personal plans.

The WHITE PLAINS is a Combat Stores Ship which carries fresh provisions and general stores for resupply to other ships of the fleet. Assignment to new construction, such as the USS WHITE PLAINS, is perhaps the most rewarding and, at the same time, demanding duty in the Navy. Everything is new, therefore, the tasks of transforming an inert steel shape into a living ship capable of operating with the fleet, demands the best in minds, experience, initiative and leadership. Some of the more sophisticated innovations that have been incorporated into the WHITE PLAINS are:

1. Fully automated engines with bridge control (a first for steam driven ships in the Navy)!
2. A computer to keep track of over 33,000 separate supply items.
3. Two helicopters for vertical replenishment.
4. High Speed Ram Tensioned Wire Highlines for alongside replenishment.
5. Elevators, conveyors, fork lift trucks, and completely air-conditioned messing and berthing facilities.

The ship is named for a Revolutionary War engagement, the Battle of White Plains, New York, and at the same time honors cities in Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, New York, and Virginia. This is the second ship to bear the name WHITE PLAINS and will commemorate the first Aircraft Escort Carrier of WW II fame.

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Pertinent data about the WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4):

Keel laid: 2 October 1965

Launched: 26 July 1966

Basic characteristics:

Length: 581 feet

Beam: 79 feet

Draft: 26 feet

Displacement: 16,000 plus tons

Speed: 20 plus knots

Fleet assignment: Pacific

Home Port: San Francisco

Schedule: As with all ships' schedules, the word "Tentative" must necessarily be applied. From the schedule listed below, you can see the ship is expected to be generally in the San Diego/Long Beach areas from the present time until our shakedown training is completed in December 1968. The ship is expected to then be in the San Francisco area until our future deployment to the Western Pacific.

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Builder completes construction and delivers ship to Long Beach Naval Shipyard | 19 Sep 68 |
| Commissioning (Long Beach) | 27 Sep 68 |
| Fitting Out (Long Beach) | 27 Sep-28 Oct 68 |
| Ready for sea (at sea) San Diego/Long Beach | 28 Oct-2 Nov 68 |
| Independent ship exercises (at sea) San Diego/Long Beach | 3 Nov-23 Nov 68 |
| Shakedown Training (San Diego) (at sea) | 24 Nov-22 Dec 68 |
| Upkeep (San Francisco) | 23 Dec 68-4 Jan 69 |
| Fleet Issue Load (San Francisco) | 5 Jan-8 Feb 69 |
| Final Acceptance Trials (San Diego) (at sea) | 9 Feb-23 Feb 69 |

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Post Shakedown Availability (San Francisco)

24 Feb-11 Apr 69

Prepare for overseas movement

April

Deploy WestPac

May

Personnel, such as yourself, assigned as crew members are normally ordered to report to Commander, Fleet Training Center (COMFLETRACEN), Building 55 and 56 located at the U. S. Naval Station on Harbor Drive and 32nd Street, San Diego, California, where you will undergo five weeks of pre-commissioning school training. (The ship is being constructed at National Steel and Ship-building Company, 28th Street and Harbor Drive, which is adjacent to the U. S. Naval Station.)

For personnel without dependents, the U. S. Naval Station, San Diego, will provide berthing. For those personnel with dependents, keep in mind the ship's homeport is San Francisco, California, not San Diego, California. Remember, you (not necessarily your dependents and household goods) are required to attend pre-commissioning school training in San Diego and be attached to the ship, while the ship is operating in the San Diego/Long Beach area until the latter part of December 1968. On permanent change of station orders (PCS), you are entitled to only ONE movement of dependents and household goods at government expense. Therefore, you are entitled to move your dependents and household goods at government expense (dependent travel limited, in distance, to the home port/yard) from your present location to a single point of your selection within the United States. Thus, for example, you may move your family to San Diego or San Francisco, but not to both at government expense. Since this is a very complex and often misunderstood area of entitlement, be sure to consult your present Personnel Officer and Household Goods Shipping Officer before making a decision!

In closing, once again may I say welcome aboard!



T. B. BRENNER

Captain, U. S. Navy

Prospective Commanding Officer

WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4)



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

IN REPLY REFER TO
OP-434/gjm
Ser 1031P43

27 AUG 1968

From: Chief of Naval Operations
To: Commander, Naval Base Los Angeles, Long Beach, California
Subj: Commissioning Order for USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4)

1. When USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4) is ready in all respects, you are directed to place her "In Commission" on 28 September 1968.
2. Upon completion of fitting out direct USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4) to report to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet for onward routing and duty in the Service Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

T. H. MOOKER

Copy to:
CINCPACFLT
COMSERVPAC
COMELEVEN
NAVSHIPYD LBEACH
NSC LBEACH
EPDOPAC
PCO USS WHITE PLAINS
INSURV
INSURVPAC
NAVSTA LBEACH
COMSERVRON SEVEN
CHNAVMAT
NAVSHIPSYSOMHQ
NAVSUPSYSOMHQ

BUPERS
BUMED
NAVSEC
COMSERVGRU ONE
SPCC MECH
SUPSHIP SDIEGO
CHINFO
OLA
COMWESTSEAFRON
NAVSHIPYD PHILA (Code 900)
FOSATSPAC
NAVORDSYSOMHQ
NAVAIRSYSOMHQ



CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the
MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION to

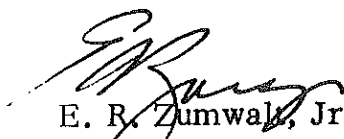
USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4)

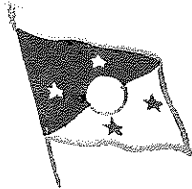
for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For meritorious service from 1 December 1971 to 12 July 1972 in direct support of United States SEVENTH Fleet combat operations in Southeast Asia. USS WHITE PLAINS contributed materially to the success of these operations by transferring over 6,300 tons of stores and provisions to virtually all naval units operating in the South China Sea, as well as providing replenishment services to coastal U. S. Navy support bases in Vietnam. Despite the rapidly changing logistic situation, WHITE PLAINS responded effectively and efficiently, continually establishing new standards for transfer rate and customers serviced. This demonstrated flexibility and responsiveness was particularly vital during the Indian Ocean contingency operations and the intensive build-up of SEVENTH Fleet forces following the April 1972 invasion of the Republic of Vietnam. Through their continuous display of professionalism, determination, and resourcefulness, the officers and men of USS WHITE PLAINS contributed immeasurably to the United States mission in Southeast Asia. Their perseverance and unfailing devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the Secretary,


E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.
Admiral, United States Navy
Chief of Naval Operations



CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

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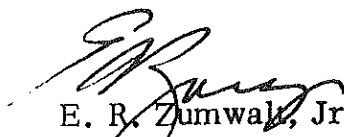
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